

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:30 PM. Mayor Nolan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent meditation. Mayor Nolan stated that the meeting has been properly advertised in the December 31, 2004, issue of the Somerset Spectator and is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Mr. Richard Batchelder-present, Ms. Connie Hallman-present, Ms. Peggy Harris-present, Mr. George Morren-present, Mr. Jared Witt-present, Mr. Edward Zimmerman-present.

Also present: Clerk Raymond Whitlock, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz,
Borough Auditor Bob Morrison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2005, was made by Zimmerman with a second by Harris. Roll call: Batchelder-aye, Hallman-aye, Harris-aye, Morren-aye, Witt-aye, Zimmerman-aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Phil Hayden of 38 Washington St. inquired as to the status of the sidewalks on Washington St. Mr. Hayden was advised that there are plans to connect the north side to the west side of Washington St. subject to funding availability from the State.

Hearing no other comments, Mayor Nolan closed the floor to the public.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Tanner's report dated March 4, 2005, was received. A meeting has been scheduled with the EPA, Gamma Tech, and Borough representatives for discussion of the well and the affect of their pumping on it to be held on March 16, 2005. An addendum has been issued for the garbage specifications and has been provided to three, prospective bidders. Engineer Tanner has checked with the DOT Local Aid Office and was advised that the Borough may be able to file an application for curbs and limited sidewalk work on Montgomery Ave. provided road work is done also. Engineer Tanner will be following up on this matter.

TRANSFERS IN THE 2004 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mr. Batchelder moved the following transfers in the 2004 municipal budget with a second by Morren. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

To account #1133 Streets & Roads	\$1080.00
From account #1114 Gen Adm	\$1080.00

BILL LIST

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that sufficient funds are available to pay said vouchers,

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the following vouchers be approved for payment.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Harris with a second by Morren.

Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 1 for Bill List)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration & Records – No report at this time.

Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Zimmerman noted minor repairs being done on the elevator communications and downstairs light.

Finance & Insurance – Mr. Batchelder advised the 2005 budget will be introduced this evening and the new tax software program has been installed.

Public Safety & Emergency Services – Mr. Morren provided an overview of a meeting he attended with the NJ State Police. Mr. Morren requested a representative from NJSP attend a community event held by Rocky Hill and is awaiting a response back from them.

Streets & Roads – No report at this time.

Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection – No report at this time.

Council Representative to Planning Board – Clerk Whitlock advised Mayor and Council that a lot line adjustment/minor subdivision was approved by the Planning Board at the February 8, 2005 meeting for the Huizing property located on Route 518.

Council Representative to School Board – Mr. Witt advised the preliminary school budget for 2005/2006 has been introduced. The final budget hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2005. Clerk Whitlock requested that the Rocky Hill Gazette publish a notice to advise the residents that the polling place for all elections this year will be the Borough Hall.

Council Representative to Board of Health – Ms. Hallman that the results of the community needs assessment have been received, however, due to the limited response, they will be doing a follow-up for responses.

Zoning Official – No report at this time.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

MUNICIPAL BUDGET

ORDINANCE #2 – 2005 – FIRST READING

Ordinance #2-2005 as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and entitled, "ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK" was read by title (attached hereto as Appendix 2).

Borough Auditor Morrison provided an overview of the ordinance. Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Batchelder with a second by Morren. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for April 4, 2005, at 7:30 PM in Borough Hall.

The 2005 Municipal Budget was presented. Borough Auditor Morrison summarized the budget message included in same, specifically addressing the increase in the municipal tax rate of .10 per one hundred dollars of assessed value and justification for the proposed increase. Motion to introduce the budget as presented was made by Batchelder with a second by Harris. Roll call: Batchelder-aye, Hallman-aye, Harris-aye, Morren-aye, Witt-aye, Zimmerman-naye. Motion carried. Public hearing scheduled for April 4, 2005, at 7:30 PM in Borough Hall. Copy of proposed budget is on file in the Borough Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION – Amending the Meter Rates for Water & Sewer Use – Resolution as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and attached hereto as Appendix 3 was presented. Water/Sewer Rates to be increased and billed as follows: \$2.25/1000 gallons for water use; \$6.75/1000 gallons for sewer use for a total charge of \$9.00/1000 gallons of usage. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Morren with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. The new rates are effective immediately and will be reflected in the next billing.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were discussed and ordered filed. Mayor Nolan presented communications which were discussed and disseminated to the appropriate Committee representatives for disposition. Mayor Nolan advised of a request from the NJLM for a Community Funding Block Grant resolution. Mayor Nolan will provide a copy at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Request was received by the Community Group for the use of the Borough Hall grounds for the following events: Easter Egg Hunt – March 26, 2005; Earth Day Clean Up – April 23, 2005; July 4th Parade and Picnic – July 2, 2005. Motion to approve request was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Mayor Nolan advised the NJ Conference of Mayors will be held during the week of April 14, 2005. Council supported Mayor Nolan's attendance at the conference.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fire Company Building – A summary report by the architect regarding the fire company building was received. Fire company representatives, Ted Merritt and Fred Lewis, appeared before Mayor and Council. A summary of the options being explored by the fire company for renovation and/or construction of a new building were provided. Some of the options discussed were renovations/addition to the existing building, acquisition of additional neighboring property for expansion; sale of current building and purchase of new property for construction of new building (possibly in conjunction with Rescue Squad); land swap through Green Acres Program; available funding through grant applications. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Mayor Nolan along with fire company subcommittee members would contact the owners of the Huizing property on Route 518 to inquire if they are interested in selling the property and the adjoining property owners to the fire company would be contacted to ask if they are interested in selling any land. Ms. Harris will confer with the Planning Board to ascertain if they are have any suggestions or recommendations regarding this matter.

Clean up Day – Clerk Whitlock will contact the current waste removal contractor for the Borough and request a date of Monday, May 2, 2005, for the clean up day with a second option of Saturday, April 30th, if Monday pick up cannot be accommodated.

Street Clean Up – Clerk Whitlock will request a street clean up for the first week of May before Mother's Day if possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Germaine of 15 Washington St. advised Mayor and Council of a break in at 13A Washington St. during the week of 2/24/05. Mr. Germaine expressed concern as to the manner in which the investigation was conducted by the State Police as relayed by the residents. Mr. Morren will contact the Hamilton Barracks and follow up on the incident.

Hearing no comments/questions, the floor was closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM was made by Batchelder with a second by Morren. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths
Deputy Clerk